MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

3 FEBRUARY 1982

Israel

Sharon Speech -- In a speech to a United Jewish Appeal mission, reported by Jerusalem radio, Minister Ari'el Sharon said Jordan is a Palestinian state and Israel will not permit a second Palestinian state to emerge in the autonomy area. Referring to what might happen after the transitional autonomy period, Sharon said that if a "real" Palestinian state existed in Jordan, then Israel together with this Palestinian state could decide how the Arab inhabitants of the autonomy area would express their political aspirations in this Palestinian state by such means as paying taxes, voting and running for office. According to Sharon, Israel and Jordan could also negotiate mutual economic relations and Jordanian access to Israeli ports. He added that although Israel would prefer such a solution, the Arabs within the autonomy area may decide instead to tie their lives to Israel after the transitional period. In either case, Sharon stressed, antiterrorist activities and the defense of Israel's borders will remain forever in the hands of the IDF and will not be handed over to the United Nations or any other factor.

Washington POST Document -- According to MA'ARIV, an adviser to Prime Minister Menahem Begin categorically denied a report carried in the Washington POST that Israeli intelligence tried to recruit U.S. diplomats and U.S. Embassy guards in Tel Aviv to work as agents.

An Israeli intelligence affairs commentator interviewed by IDF radio said the alleged U.S. Tehran Embassy document published by Iran and reported by the POST contains a mixture of truths, half-truths and gross lies. He added that if -- and he stressed the "if" -- the CIA indeed composed this document, then the agency would be in an embarrassing position because the document would prove that the CIA is working secretly in Israel.

Egypt

Mubarak U.S. Visit, Comment -- Cairo radio commented that the U.S. stage of President Husni Mubarak's current tour acquires special importance in view of recent unique developments in Egyptian-U.S. relations, including visits to the United States by high-level Egyptian military and economic delegations, intensive U.S. efforts to "pull the autonomy talks out of the whirlpool," U.S.-Egyptian agreement that no deadline should be set for concluding the autonomy talks and U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Charles Percy's recent call for the establishment of a Palestinian state. When this is added to recent calls by Palestinian mayors for mutual recognition between Israel and the Palestinians, the radio said, the stage is now set for Mubarak to convince U.S. officials to establish a "bridge of dialogue" with the Palestinians. MENA reported that in an interview with Rome's LA REPUBBLICA, Foreign Under Secretary Usamah al-Baz likewise called on the United States to convince Israel and the Palestinians to officially recognize each other. Such reciprocal recognition should be more than a mere formality, Al-Baz added. He also said the Middle East peace process should include all of Israel's neighboring states and bring in those Arab states that have not intervened directly in Egyptian-Israeli dealings.

Egyptian-Israeli Committee -- Cairo radio reported that at the conclusion of the Egyptian-Israeli Military Committee meetings in Al-'Arish, the Egyptians were handed a dossier containing information on the installations and utilities in northern Sinai.

Border With Libya -- A Cabinet spokesman said the recent border crossing from Libya by a group of Egyptian teachers does not alter the procedures that have been followed in the past, Cairo radio reported.

PLO

Rejection of Autonomy -- Commenting on Israel's newly published autonomy proposals, the clandestine Voice of Palestine radio said the document aims at using the Palestinian people to serve Israel's continuing occupation of Palestinian territory. The document gives the Palestinians administrative powers while the fundamental requisites of the state or the authority are forgotten and seized, the radio said. Asserting that the Palestinians reject in principle all forms of autonomy, the radio called on Egypt to assume a pan-Arab and "struggling" role.

Relations With Hungary -- Budapest radio reported that Hungary has decided to accord diplomatic status to the PLO mission in Budapest. The radio also noted PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat's arrival in Budapest for talks with Hungarian officials.

Syria

Soviet Advisers -- According to the London DAILY TELEGRAPH, the Soviet Union has decided to gradually reduce the number of Soviet experts assisting the Syrian Armed Forces because of concern over the recent coup attempt and in view of Syria's inability to guarantee their safety.

March Outside U.S. Embassy -- Damascus radio reported that thousands of Syrian workers marched to the U.S. Embassy in Damascus, where they submitted a memorandum to the U.S. charge d'affaires protesting U.S. Middle East policy. Afterward, in a press conference reported by Damascus television, the Syrian trade unions president condemned the U.S. ambassador's refusal to receive the memorandum and noted that Syrians have begun to boycott U.S. cigarettes and clothes.

Iraq

In a speech to officers, carried by Baghdad Voice of Masses radio, President Saddam Husayn said those Arabs who are scheming against Jordan's King Husayn and against others determined to prove their Arabism should be ashamed. The president claimed that Iraq is stronger today than when it entered the war with Iran, and added that Iran's military leaders know and should inform the political leadership that while Iran seized the small village of Bostan after losing 11,000 men, Iraq has also occupied more land in the central sector.

INA reported that an official Information Ministry source ridiculed Syria's 1 February statement on Jordan's plan to send volunteers to assist Iraq in the war against Iran. Calling King Husayn's initiative a severe blow to the Damascus regime, the source accused Syria of sending arms, experts and intelligence officers to help Iran and reiterated the charge that Syria's airports have been used by Iranian pilots to strafe Iraq's air bases.

Iran-Iraq Conflict

Algerian Mediation Offer -- In a statement to the Dubayy paper AL-BAYAN, reported by QNA, Algerian parliamentary speaker Rabah Bitat said Algeria is ready to mediate in the Iran-Iraq war, provided both sides officially approve.

Iranian Opposition to Baghdad Conference -- The Iranian Foreign Ministry, in a statement broadcast by Tehran radio, declared Iran's opposition to holding the nonaligned conference in Baghdad and asked the current chairman of the movement to raise the matter in the forthcoming nonaligned foreign ministers meeting in Havana. The statement said that by invading Iran, Iraq had violated the movement's fundamental principle of nonaggression.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

South Asia

Vol VIII No 023 *3 February 1982*

MIDDLE EAST AND SOUTH ASIA REVIEW i

AFGHANISTAN

Madrid Paper Interviews Dost on Situation [EL PAIS 27 Jan] C 1
Keshtmand Meets With Soviet Economic Delegation C 2
AFP: PDPA Membership Swells to 100,000 C 2
BBC Reports 'Major' Antiguerrilla Operation C 3

INDIA

Rao Speaks on Talks With Pakistan's Shahi E 1
Press Comments on Shahi Visit, No-War Talks E 1
Gandhi Comments on Assam, Mizo, Manipur Problems E 2
UNI: CPI-M Congress Indicates Shift in Policy E 2
Resolution Adopted E 3
Atomic Energy Chairman on Reprocessing Plants E 3
Romania Offers To Increase Indian Imports E 3
Briefs: Cooperation Accord With EEC E 3

OTHER COUNTRIES

SRI LANKA

Indian President Reddy Arrives in Colombo G 1
Banquet Speeches G 1

IRAN

Velayati Rules Out Resuming Relations With U.S. I 1
Velayati Meets With Algerian, UAE Ministers I 1
U.S. Police Prevent Americans From Going to Iran I 2
Prime Minister Speaks on Propaganda Efforts I 2
Khamene'i Comments on Foreign Trade Bill I 3
Petroleum Minister Cites Production Figures I 3
Armed Forces Joint Staff Communique 778 I 4
Guards Corps Reports Successes Against Iraqis I 4
NVOI Urges Speedy End to 'Imposed War' I 5
Afghan Mujahidin Hit Soviet Forces in Herat I 6
Afghan Opposition Leader Calls for Muslim Unity I 6

MADRID PAPER INTERVIEWS DOST ON SITUATION

PM021247 Madrid EL PAIS in Spanish 27 Jan 82 p 6

[Ismael Lopez Munoz interview in Kabul with Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost: "Afghan Government Prepared to Discuss All Territorial Problems With Pakistan and Iran" -- date of interview not given]

[Text] Kabul -- The entire country is under arms. The tanks are lords and masters of the situation. Helicopters and combat aircraft guard the airports of the Afghan cities. Life in the cities lasts from sunrise to sunset. At nightfall everybody immures himself, afraid of a potential enemy. Nevertheless, Afghan Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost was optimistic and rejected the terms of our question, when we asked him whether an early end to the war is possible.

"There is no war in Afghanistan. All we know is that we are being attacked by enemies from the other side of the border with Pakistan. It is a struggle against terrorists who are employing sabotage against the population. Our armed forces are the security forces," he emphatically told the EL PAIS special correspondents.

However, he was clearer and more forthcoming when we asked about the intention to resolve the current situation as rapidly as possible. "The Afghan Government is prepared to discuss all territorial problems, without any precondition, between Pakistan and Afghanistan. We wish to hold talks at the highest levels with Iran and Pakistan. We believe that the best vehicle is the UN secretary general, who could act as a negotiator between our countries."

Minister Dost was not so categorical when we asked him about numbers. As regards the Soviet military personnel on Afghan territory, who exceed 95,000 according to what we have learned from semiofficial sources in Moscow, the Afghan politician preferred to evade this. "Only the Ministry of Defense knows the figures, and it is a state secret. I assure you that the Western press never approaches the truth, but that is natural, because it forms part of the propaganda against our country."

The conversation became strained when we dwelt on the 2.5 million Afghans who have crossed the border, fleeing from Karmal's regime to Pakistan. "I do not know whether you know that for centuries the nomads have been coming and going through our countries annually. If you regard each migration as a flight, we will not correct you every month. It is also true that many of those who cross accept the propaganda and join the counterrevolutionaries. The fact is that 90 percent return each year, despite the current situation. You speak to me of 2.5 million. The official figures of an international body put them at under 1 million per year who come and go. Draw whatever conclusions you please."

Toll of War

The figures cited by the Western news media indicate that there are now 9,000 fatalities in the Soviet Army, 20,000 in the Afghan population and only 1,000 among the counter-revolutionaries. Shah Mohammad Dost looked at us with surprise while we put the facts to him, and replied emphatically: "Let the Western news media cease to be mistaken. The Soviet Armed Forces are here to assist us, and their activity in the struggle against the bandits is limited. The Afghan Army is the only army taking part in the struggle against outside attacks. It is the Afghan people, as you will be able to ascertain during your stay in my country, who are defending themselves. There are no missiles or napalm. The People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) is directing all the actions to defend itself. The Soviet Union is Afghanistan's great and sole friend, and our people understand this, realize this and are on very good terms with those who have come to assist us."

According to figures cited by the British Government, 300 fatalities are entered every month in the sinister list of Afghan casualties, over 60 percent of them belonging to the Soviets -- facts impossible to verify through the official spokesman who could have confirmed them.

The Afghan foreign minister did not wish to enter into these topics, and preferred to keep the conversation on more pleasant topics which did not reflect the undeclared war which undoubtedly exists in his country.

In Minister Dost's opinion, the current situation is clear: "Our country knows that it is confronting enemies who lurk beyond the borders of Pakistan, Iran and China. They are supported by countries such as Egypt and the United States. We are defending ourselves alone, with the Soviet Union's invaluable assistance. We wish to maintain good relations with all countries. I do not know whether your newspaper will be an ideal vehicle, but I would be grateful to you if you would make it very clear that we desire and are prepared to maintain good relations with all countries. We do not regard, as has been said, Pakistan as a natural enemy. We only hope for understanding on the part of all Western countries, including Pakistan and Iran. We are prepared to discuss any territorial problem, provided that it is on the basis of an equality in which nobody need relinquish his rights."

The conversation could not be prolonged. It lasted over 1 hour, and the torpedoing of any thorny issue was a constant trait of the Afghan minister. He clung to two fundamental issues: resolving the current struggle through talks with Pakistan and avoiding any figure to guide us concerning what this war, whose existence is denied by him, means.

He left us with a set of unanswered questions which we were hoping to put to Afghan President Babrak Karmal, who did not seem prepared to face a Western journalist.

KESHTMAND MEETS WITH SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION

LD021754 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, chairman of the DRA Council of Ministers, this afternoon met with the heads and members of the Afghan-Soviet subcommission for economic planning cooperation at the Council of Ministers headquarters.

The great and fruitful aid and the technical and economic cooperation of the Soviet Union with the DRA, including the sphere of planning, were recalled with appreciation at the meeting, and the expansion of cooperation in the sector of planning for the socioeconomic development of the DRA was appraised as beneficial.

The Soviet delegation, headed by Bulgakov, member of the USSR state planning committee consultative board [name and title as heard], arrived in Kabul on 27 January to hold talks on technical, economic and planning cooperation between the DRA and the Soviet Union. These talks are currently continuing.

AFP: PDPA MEMBERSHIP SWELLS TO 100,000

BK021155 Hong Kong AFP in English 0958 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] New Delhi, 2 Feb (AFP) -- Membership in Afghanistan's ruling communist party has shot up from 15,000 at the time of the Marxist coup in April 1978 to 100,000 now, Western diplomatic sources said today, quoting a well-connected Afghan source in Kabul.

This is the first confirmed report on the party's strength, which had hitherto eluded analysts of Afghan affairs.

Afghan President Babrak Karmal had claimed early last month that the strength of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (the Afghan communist party's official title), had increased by two and a half times during the last two years, but he had failed to give any figures.

Party membership at the time of the Soviet armed intervention into Afghanistan was estimated at between 40,000 to 50,000.

The diplomats here did not give any reason for the phenomenal increase in the PDPA's membership strength, but area analysts recalled that since last year the membership drive launched in the urban areas and in the capital cities had yielded good results.

Though the continuing feud between the two rival Parcham and Khalq factions of the party continues to pose problems for the Soviet-backed regime in Kabul, it has at least succeeded in enlisting new membership in the cities and the army.

The state-owned newspaper "Kabul NEW TIMES" reported on January 26 that distribution of new party membership cards in the armed forces had begun for the first time on the previous day. The cards were distributed to an unidentified infantry unit in Kabul by General Gol Aqa, a Central Committee member and president of the Afghan Armed Forces Political Affairs Department.

The diplomats here said the national convention of the party scheduled to be held before next March might be preceded by regional conventions or congresses.

The sources said 400 delegates had already been chosen from Kabul Province alone and each delegate represented at least 75 party members.

President Karmal had begun a Moscow-tailored reorganization plan for the party early last month with the announcement that all party membership cards were invalid and should be replaced with new ones, in an obvious move to purge dissenting members.

BBC REPORTS 'MAJOR' ANTIGUERRILLA OPERATION

TA021548 London BBC World Service in English 1500 GMT 2 Feb 82

[From "Radio Newsreel"]

[Text] Western diplomatic sources in Islamabad have been giving more details of the major Afghan antiguerrilla operation carried out in Qandahar last month. They also say assassinations continue in the capital, Kabul, and there has been a marked decline in security in the big provincial center of Ghazni. From Islamabad, Alexander Thompson:

[Begin Thompson recording] Western diplomats say that following a guerrilla attack on the government office in Qandahar, a major antiguerrilla operation was launched on 20 January and for a week the old city was pounded by artillery. The diplomats say it is estimated that several hundred civilians were killed and by the end of the week people were pleading for mercy.

The diplomats say there have been further reports that Qandahar has been losing its population and only a few shops remain open. Refugee officials say that despite a general decline in the overall number of refugees reaching Pakistan, there has been a sharp increase in the number of refugees from the Qandahar region. One report says that over the past few weeks, some 2,000 families have taken refuge in Pakistan's border province of Baluchistan. According to reports reaching Western diplomats here, the communist party chief for the southern zone, who had his offices in Qandahar, has been sacked and the zone is now being directly supervised by the minister for the interior.

In Kabul, the elections for the next People's Democratic Party conference are underway, elections which the Russians hope will go some way in healing the rift between the Khalq and Parcham factions of the party. There are reports of more assassinations, including the killing of the leading Pashto commentator on radio and television, (Ahima Akhbar). She had been warned to stop her broadcasts, which were part of the government's attempt to woo hostile Pashtun tribes. [end recording]

RAO SPEAKS ON TALKS WITH PAKISTAN'S SHAHI

BK030345 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] Talks between India and Pakistan to be held at official level are likely to be resumed toward the end of this month. This was indicated by External Affairs Minister Narasimha Rao in an interview with Pakistani journalists in New Delhi.

He expressed full satisfaction at his discussions with Agha Shahi in New Delhi which concluded yesterday. Rao said no one expected that everything would be settled in 2 or 3 days, but the general trend of the talks was satisfactory and hopeful.

Rao said that Agha Shahi had reiterated at the talks that Pakistan would not give bases or similar military facilities to the United States or any other country. He said: India at first did not have any doubts about the proposal for a nonaggression pact but certain misgivings were voiced by the public and in the press and Pakistan's attention was invited to these.

PRESS COMMENTS ON SHAHI VISIT, NO-WAR TALKS

BK021559 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1523 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Press summary]

[Text] The Hindustan TIMES, in an editorial "A Good Beginning," writes that it was not expected that a no-war pact would be concluded due to Agha Shahi's visit. But negotiations have cleared the air sufficiently for considering specifics of a no-war pact which would be a "positive contribution to peace and stability in the region" -- as recognized by both sides. It is also well that it has been frankly admitted that problems remain to be solved before a no-war pact can emerge. The joint commission proposed for promoting relations can play a big role. However, Shahi's insistence that the pact would not affect Pakistan's sovereign right to arm, and that Pakistan would have preferred an evolution of common perceptions of security parameters of the region to precede a no-war pact, might become insurmountable hurdles to a pact. According to the paper, a commendable fallout of the meeting was the decision to step up trade between India and Pakistan, and the opening of two pilgrim centres to Indians was the right kind of people-to-people gesture that should pay rich dividends.

THE TIMES OF INDIA, in an editorial "Advance in Delhi," writes that Agha Shahi's visit to New Delhi has gone off rather well. A no-war pact was not expected in such a short duration but it is no small gain that both sides have been able to clear the air of mutual misgivings and suspicions voiced since September 15. The foreign secretaries' scheduled meeting in mid-February in Islamabad to pursue talks on the subject reflects the importance both sides attach to the negotiations they have undertaken. Agha Shahi has candidly admitted that a pact would require extensive talks. It would be unrealistic to expect quick progress at Islamabad. Very important was Mrs Gandhi's suggestion for a joint commission between India and Pakistan and its prompt acceptance by Agha Shahi. The paper writes that though serious differences regarding the Simla Agreement, nonalignment and bilateralism remain, an atmosphere of cordiality appears to have been created by parleys in New Delhi. It remains to be seen whether -- and if so, how soon -- these differences are overcome.

The PATRIOT, in an editorial "Shahi's Visit," writes that Shahi, in his long talks in Delhi, has not given the slightest indication that there will be any change in his foreign policy in collaboration with the United States and China. India's prime minister has assured Pakistan: Pact or no pact, we will not attack. General Ziaul Haq should have no hesitation in saying likewise, turning both statements into a pact. But no, Islamabad must discuss various principles and their implications and prolong talks and keep the propaganda pot boiling.

Even if talks with Shahi have created conditions for the "specific consideration of elements which could constitute the substance of an agreement" -- in the words of the joint statement -- it would be more fruitful to review the past and draw lessons. The paper concludes that "we should not be carried away by slick operations."

GANDHI COMMENTS ON ASSAM, MIZO, MANIPUR PROBLEMS

BK021628 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] The prime minister has ruled out any division of Assam because carving out areas for different groups is not going to help. Mrs Gandhi was talking to a group of journalists from the northeastern states in New Delhi today. She warned that removal of all non-Assamese from the state may lead to dire consequences for both the sections.

Mrs Gandhi pointed out that the problems which Assam is facing are similar to those faced by other states. She reiterated that the government will continue the talks with Assam agitation leaders to find a solution to the foreign nationals issue.

The prime minister said during her visit to Assam in April last year she had asked the agitation leaders to begin the task of identifying foreign nationals in the state. If we had begun then, we could have achieved much by now, she said.

About the Mizo problem, Mrs Gandhi said some of the demands of Mizo National Front leader Laldenga are difficult to accept. Talks have, however, been continuing to meet their demands wherever possible. She said the government has also to take into account the repercussions on other groups if an agreement is reached with the front on its terms. Mrs Gandhi hoped that violence would end in Mizoram as it is hindering the progress of the state.

About Manipur, the prime minister said the situation is now better there. It is essentially a law-and-order problem. Problems could be easily overcome if the people in the state cooperate with the administration in maintaing law and order.

When a journalist pointed out that tribals in the state faced the problem of a loss of identity, Mrs Gandhi said this cannot be preserved by alienating oneself from the mainstream of national life. She said India is the only country which is trying its best to retain the identity of every section of people. We do not want people from outside to add to our problems. She said the tribals can retain their own personality and can also imbibe the best from other cultures.

A journalist asked her what the center would do if a non-Congress-I government in the state does not implement the 20-point program. Mrs Gandhi said no state government can be compelled to carry out the program, although it is meant for the welfare of the people.

To another question, she said all chief ministers demand more plan projects than what the center can give. We are doing our best to accomodate the northeastern states, she said.

UNI: CPI-M CONGRESS INDICATES SHIFT IN POLICY

BK310743 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] The 5-day session of the 11th Congress of the Communist Party of India-Marxist [CPI-M] concluded in Vijaywada yesterday. UNITED NEWS OF INDIA [UNI] says the session marks a major departure from the earlier stand of the party on various important international and national issues. It adds that the new political line highlighted the importance of the CPI-M's fight for the defense of the socialist system and the Soviet Union from attacks of what it called U.S. imperialism.

UNI adds that the Vijaywada meet has sharply criticized China's stand, which the party says is helping the Americans. The party rejected suggestions that Prime Minister Mrs Gandhi is trying to utilize the war danger to divert the attention of the people. It also gave a call for building up of what it called a broad antiauthoritarian platform consisting of all opposition parties, including the Bhartiya Janata Party.

E.M.S. Namboodripad was unanimously reelected the general secretary of the party. The new Political Bureau retains all nine members of the former Political Bureau.

Resolution Adopted

BK290202 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] The 6-day congress of the Communist Party of India [CPI-M] held in Vijaywada has adopted a political resolution endorsing the party leadership stand on several issues, which had earlier been criticized by some of its state units.

A draft resolution adopted with some amendments called for left democratic unity at the national level. It also endorsed a pro-Soviet and anti-Chinese stand on the international scene.

ATOMIC ENERGY CHAIRMAN ON REPROCESSING PLANTS

BK290909 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Text] The Department of Atomic Energy proposes to set up a reprocessing plant at Kalpakkam near Madras. It will handle irradiated fuel from pressurized heavy-water reactors. Disclosing this, Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission Dr H.N. Sethna said the setting up of the reprocessing plant is part of the department's long-term strategy for the next 2 decades. At present work is in full swing on the third nuclear power station at Kalpakkam. They will consist of two units of 235 megawatt capacity each. Dr Sethna said a waste immobilization plant for highly active waste from the reprocessing plant at Tarapur has been completed and is being commissioned.

ROMANIA OFFERS TO INCREASE INDIAN IMPORTS

BK281619 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 28 Jan 82

[Text] Romania has offered to import more chemicals, pharmaceuticals and other manufacturing goods from India. This was indicated by visiting Romanian Deputy Minister of Foreign Trade Marin Traistaru when he met Minister of State for Commerce Shivraj Patil in New Delhi.

Traistaru said Romania will send trade missions to survey the Indian market. He also called on Petroleum and Chemical Minister Shiv Shankar and held discussions with him.

BRIEFS

COOPERATION ACCORD WITH EEC -- India and EEC signed a new agreement on commercial and economic cooperation in New Delhi on 23 January. The agreement was signed at the end of the 2-day meeting of the India-EEC joint commission. It was declared by the leaders of the two delegations that EEC will set up its legation in New Delhi by the middle of 1982. The two sides agreed to establish a working group to solve any specific problem in improving the two-way trade. The agreement envisages greater cooperation in the fields of industry, science and technology. It was proposed to take joint action on specific projects related to energy and agriculture. The India side expressed its concern over the increasing trade deficit with the EEC. About the import of India textiles under the multifiber agreement announced recently, it was decided to hold the first round of talks for bilateral agreement in New Delhi during March. [Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 23 Jan 82 BK]

SRI LANKA

INDIAN PRESIDENT REDDY ARRIVES IN COLOMBO

BK021114 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Excerpt] Indian President Shri Sanjiva Reddy was accorded a warm welcome when he arrived at Colombo International Airport, Katunayake, shortly after noon today to start a 6-day state visit to Sri Lanka. He is accompanied by Shrimati Reddy, their daughter, Indian Minister of Information and Broadcasting Vasant Sathe and a party of nearly 30 officials and journalists. To greet the distinguished guest at the airport were President and Mrs Jayewardene, Cabinet ministers, MP's, members of the diplomatic corps and a large crowd of well wishers.

Banquet Speeches

BK030336 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] President Sanjiva Reddy has said that the escalation of great power presence in the Indian Ocean is a development fraught with danger. He was speaking at a banquet in Colombo last night hosted in his honor by Sri Lanka President Jayewardene.

The president said this development brings in its train the prospect of great power confrontation and the possibility of our becoming embroiled in it. It also poses a danger that the heightening tensions and threatened conflicts can result in lessening the ability to concentrate on development.

Sanjiva Reddy said all the countries bordering the Indian Ocean have a duty to press for greater adherence to the UN resolution for the creation of a zone of peace.

All India Radio special correspondent Somnath Dhar covering the visit says that Reddy paid tribute to Sri Lanka's role in the Nonaligned Movement and hoped that India and Sri Lanka can work more closely to attain its goals. These goals, he said, have acquired renewed significance and greater urgency in the context of the international situation, particularly in our neighborhood.

Sanjiva Reddy pledged India's total commitment to the concept of regional cooperation. He said in the welfare of each one of us lies the welfare of all. Describing the relations between India and Sri Lanka as an example of good neighborliness, the president said the manner in which the two countries have tried to resolve their problems is evidence of the commitment to a constructive approach in bilateral relations.

Welcoming Sanjiva Reddy, Sri Lanka President Jayewardene stressed the commonality of interest and the approach to the international situation. He referred to the common spiritual and social values that bind the two, to quote his own words "free and sovereign parliamentary democracies."

Jayewardene also referred to the international situation in which he said India and Sri Lanka have adopted a common approach to many problems. This manifested itself in our common endeavors to make a success of the Nonaligned Movement, one of whose founding fathers was Jawaharlal Nehru. Jayewardene said India has always played a leading role in the movement. It is Sri Lanka's desire that India should continue the same role.

VELAYATI RULES OUT RESUMING RELATIONS WITH U.S.

LD031022 Tehran IRNA in English 0910 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] New York, 3 Feb (IRNA) -- The foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Dr Velayati, in an interview with reporters in New York said that there was no probability for the re-establishment of relations with the United States. He said that the U.S. had not acted in accordance with the Algerian declaration and, therefore, did not show good will in relations with Iran.

Velayati also said that Iran believed that every country should determine its own fate, and Iran had no intention of interfering in others affairs. However, he said that the natural spread of the Islamic revolution was not controllable.

About the probable mediation of Syria in the imposed war and developments in this respect Dr Velayati said that Iran was a peace-seeking nation. And if someone intended to establish peace they would welcome such an idea.

He pointed out that Iran's conditions for peace were very simple and logical: the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Iranian territory and compensation for damage inflicted.

In reply to a question whether he had met any American diplomats, Dr Velayati said he had not and he would not be meeting American officials. He pointed out that considering American interference in Iranian affairs in the past 25 years and its further interference after the Islamic revolution, along with the violations of the Algerian declaration, there would be no likelihood of re-establishing diplomatic relations between the two countries.

Asked whether he supposed that the Bahrain and Saudi Governments should fall, the Iranian foreign minister replied that Iran should not and did not determine the fate of other countries since it had no intention to interfere in their affairs. He continued that the people of Bahrain and Saudi Arabia were competent to determine their own fate.

About the possible continuation of executions in Iran, Dr Velayati said that as long as counterrevolutionary moves for sabotage existed, naturally the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the request of people would react against the counterrevolutionaries' activities. On the alleged execution of Baha'is, Dr Velayati said that nobody in Iran was punished for their belief but a number of people, who were Baha'is, had participated in plots to overthrow the Islamic Republic and they were among others sentenced to death.

VELAYATI MEETS WITH ALGERIAN, UAE MINISTERS

LD031024 Tehran IRNA in English 0905 GMT 3 Feb 82

[Text] New York, 3 Feb (IRNA) -- Dr. Velayati, the foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran currently in the U.S., separately met and conferred with the Algerian information minister and the deputy and foreign affairs advisor of the United Arab Emirates in New York last night.

In these meetings issues of mutual interest between the two countries, especially the annexation of the Golan Heights by the Zionist regime, were discussed.

Dr. Velayati will also have an interview with William Worthy, an American revolutionary black who some time ago was arrested in the U.S. after returning from a tour of Iran since he had some documents on U.S. espionage published by Muslim students. These documents were widely published in American periodicals as of last Saturday.

U.S. POLICE PREVENT AMERICANS FROM GOING TO IRAN

GF021302 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] U.S. secret police prevented Americans from traveling to Iran in order to participate in celebrations of the third anniversary of the Islamic revolution's success. Only 7 out of 11 persons were able to leave the United States for Iran.

PRIME MINISTER SPEAKS ON PROPAGANDA EFFORTS

LD022002 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Islamic Guidance Minister Ma'adikhah, together with the members of the Islamic Propaganda Coordination Council, met with Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi this afternoon. Referring to propaganda efforts, Musavi said: What we have accomplished so far in the field of propaganda has not been commensurate with the greatness of the revolution, nor has it been as active as demanded by the revolution. This problem has been caused by a great many things, among which one may include the force of circumstances.

During the former regime access by Islamic groups to the mass media was forbidden. The previous regime did put up with the presence of leftist groups within the media, but under no circumstances did it tolerate religious groups; the reason for this was the fact that the leftist groups at least had one thing in common with the regime -- de-Islamication, a field in which they shared very close views.

He went on: This very issue made it possible for the leftist groups to maintain a place in the media machinery with a certain degree of connivance, but the religious groups never!

The prime minister added: The blows dealt by the regime to the Islamic forces, too, are considered among the factors which contributed to the separation of the Islamic forces from the mass media. On 12 February, the day after the revolution, we faced a total vacuum in the field of communicating what the revolution had rightly accomplished, but the revolution -- as in all other instances -- performed a miracle: not by the classic ways and methods. However, a number of people went to university classes in order to learn propaganda methods. Committed individuals mobilized in order to fill these vacuums and propaganda became one of the tangible needs of society. There were institutions which confronted counterrevolution, opposed liberals, viewed the very existence of the revolution as endangered and considered the weakness of the forces following the line of the imam in the matter of propaganda [sentence as heard] The result was the creation of this council. So long as this need exists, the council will also exist.

When we look to the future we see that this need will not be removed in a simple manner. Of course, this is not because counterrevolutionaries will not be crushed within the country. Rather, so long as world oppression exists propaganda plots against the Islamic system will not diminish. It is axiomatic that the best and most competent individuals in the field of propaganda are those who have become familiar with and have been nurtured by the revolution in order to be able to hold the reins of propaganda in the Islamic Republic.

Propaganda draws its sustenance from a profound ideological life force; and in the field of propaganda we should rely on no one else at all but our own forces. Propaganda can be turned into magic: it can pervert minds and -- God forbid -- even people, dragging them along paths where they should not be dragged. In contrast, it can also bring about the growth and advancement of people.

I think that at present, when the system is moving toward stability and strengthening its foundations, newer fields are being opened up for propaganda.

I think that one of the problems which we face and which is felt everywhere in society is the economic bottlenecks and the action which should take place to end these problems. One feels that no great leap forward can take place unless we are to create a movement within ourselves from the standpoint of propaganda. A plan, no matter how revolutionary, interesting and correct, cannot be fulfilled unless its propaganda and cultural background is prepared.

Musavi went on: In the future, if we wish to remain independent, the fabric of this independence, whether from the economic or political standpoint, is this very propaganda which should be created. It is for this very reason that I think that the council should expand its goals; in other words, it should discuss its activities and should consider further ways to expand its propaganda.

Therefore, there is a special relationship between the work of this council and all other activities. In other words, any policy actively carried out in the country by the executive apparatuses will somehow or another be linked with propaganda; for this very reason it seems that this council -- God willing -- with the good efforts of our brothers and the committed forces which will join it -- and, of course, their number is not insignificant in the country either -- will in the future carry out an extremely difficult and more onerous responsibility as compared to the past.

KHAMENE'I COMMENTS ON FOREIGN TRADE BILL

LD011902 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 1 Feb 82

[Text] According to a Central News Unit report, Mr Habibollah 'Asgar-Owladi-Mosalman, minister of commerce, together with the deputies and directors of various organizations affiliated with this ministry and the executive directors of the centers in charge of production and the distribution of goods, met with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this afternoon. At this meeting the minister of commerce, after introducing his companions and expressing his felicitations on the occasion of the anniversary of the arrival of the imam of the nation to the Islamic homeland, expressed the readiness of the Ministry of Commerce to implement the law regarding the nationalization of foreign trade.

Then, Mr Khamene'i in a speech said: Our foreign trade should be based on good relations with those countries, governments and nations which are not regarded negatively by the Islamic Republic. Through such relations the Islamic Republic should advance the Islamic society and country to a position of economic independence and self-sufficiency. He said: All short-sightedness and opposition to this matter is harmful to the society.

In another part of his speech, referring to the need for achieving economic self-sufficiency, Mr Khamene'i said: We have so far experienced a great deal of loss and pressure due to the fact that our economy is based on one product. In any case, one day we should free ourselves from this straight-jacket. At the end of his speech, the president emphasized the need for revolutionary spirit and activity in affairs.

PETROLEUM MINISTER CITES PRODUCTION FIGURES

GF010614 Tehran International Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 31 Jan 82

[Text] While answering a question on the export of petroleum products in light of the war's effect on production, Petroleum Minister Mohammad Gharazi said: The production capability of the refineries was about one million barrels per day before the war that was imposed on us, out of which 600,000 barrels were produced by refineries in Abadan. Our current daily production is 600,000 barrels despite the difficulties stemming from the war, the economic boycott and the fact that the Abadan refineries are not operational.

Referring to the petrochemical complex in Shiraz, which is nearing completion, the petroleum minister said: We have spent $800 million on its construction. Once this complex and the factory at Bandar-e Imam Khomeyni have opened, we will no longer need to import raw chemical materials and chemical fertilizers. Instead, we will be able to export these materials.

ARMED FORCES JOINT STAFF COMMUNIQUE 778

LD021750 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Communique 778 of the Joint Staff of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran]

[Text] In His exalted name. By offering our congratulations to the nation on the occasion of the auspicious birthday of Imam Hasan 'Askari, may peace be upon him, a summary of the events on battlefronts during the past 24 hours are brought to your attention:

West of Dezful our forces continued to defend their own positions. Our artillery silenced enemy artillery emplacements and foiled an attempt to penetrate our positions, causing the enemy some losses.

According to an air force announcement today, one Iraqi aggressive plane was hit by our air defense units and crashed west of Dezful.

In the Dasht-e 'Abbas and 'Eyn Khosh regions, our forces are maintaining their surveillance and are controlling all enemy movements. Accurate and timely fire by our forces in these regions inflicted some losses and damages on the enemy.

On the Shush and Reqabiyeh fronts, the ground forces returned enemy fire and effectively defended their own positions.

In the occupied part of Khorramshahr, the invaders also suffered some losses, including the destruction of eight observation posts and four trenches. In addition, eight enemy troops were killed and several were wounded.

Yesterday Saddam's armed forces opened heavy fire on residential districts in Abadan and demolished several houses. Several of our compatriots were martyred or wounded.

Exchanges of fire continued on the other fronts. On the Shur-e Shirin front, our forces opened fire on enemy positions and destroyed one trench. Near Meymak, our forces destroyed four Iraqi trenches and one cannon and also damaged one of their vehicles.

Near Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, our forces destroyed six trenches, one cannon, two tanks and six other vehicles. Our forces also set fire to one ammunition dump.

During the battles on 31 January, four of our ground forces combatants gained the exalted status of martyrdom on the southern and western fronts of the country. May God have mercy upon them.

GUARDS CORPS REPORTS SUCCESSES AGAINST IRAQIS

LD021722 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] According to the Central News Unit, the Public Relations Office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced the following: During the past 48 hours, the Islamic revolution guards have destroyed an ammunition dump, two bunkers and a machinegun nest and killed or wounded a number of enemy soldiers on the Karkheh Kur front.

Guards Corps snipers on the front also killed seven and wounded a number of the aggressive enemy forces.

On the Mohrzi front in Khorramshahr [Khuninshahr], mortar fire by the Guards Corps destroyed five foxholes and trenches and an ammunition dump of the enemy. Also, reconnaisance by the brother guards in conjunction with fire by the artillery units of the forces of Islam on enemy positions in the occupied part of Khuninshahr resulted in the destruction of a quantity of enemy equipment and weapons and the killing of a number of Saddam's aggressive forces.

NVOI URGES SPEEDY END TO 'IMPOSED WAR'

TA292056 (Clandestine) National Voice of Iran in Persian to Iran 1730 GMT 29 Jan 82

[Unattributed commentary: "Implementing Progressive Reforms Is an Important Factor for Achieving Victory Over the Plots of the Great Satan and Its Elements"]

[Text] Dear compatriots: The view of our struggling and revolutionary people regarding world-devouring America's imposed war is that defense of the country's independence and territorial integrity is the duty of every Iranian, and that as long as even a single soldier of the aggressive enemy is on our homeland's soil one must fight to expel it. However, the principle of the urgency to defend the country's independence and territorial integrity, to completely liberate the homeland's soil and to drive back the last aggressive soldier to the other side of the country's borders -- which is the demand of our homeland's noble people -- under no circumstances means that we should not be thinking of seeking logical ways to end this destructive war as soon as possible.

In view of the fact that world-devouring U.S. imperialism and its subservient regimes in the region, including the fifth column of the great Satan in Iran, are all interested in prolonging this imposed war, one must strive as soon as possible to end this war and to attain our nation's right.

For nearly 1 and 1/2 years aggressive America has been exacerbating various provocations, including the continuation of this imposed war. With utmost speed the United States is engaged in establishing and expanding military bases in the vicinity of Iran. It is equipping the counterrevolution in Turkey with great haste to launch an attack on Iran. It is engaged in constructing military bases in Pakistan against revolutionary Iran and the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan. It is establishing new military bases in Saudi Arabia and is expanding existing ones. The great Satan is organizing reactionary Arab countries in the region in an aggressive military alliance against revolutionary Iran and the region's liberation movements. The aggressive America is stationing some of its Rapid Deployment Forces in our region. In other words, the Persian Gulf has actually been encircled by the U.S. naval forces and military bases. It is only from the northern border and the frontiers of democratic Afghanistan that our Islamic Republic is not exposed to danger. The United States has surrounded the Islamic Republic with the counter-revolution and its military bases from other borders, namely from the west, south and southeast.

Within the country, too, the compromising liberals, the Ranjbaris, the monarchists, remnants of the former regime and other American groups and also the feudalists, major landowners, dependent capitalists and other parasites of society, headed by the great Satan, are engaged in plots against the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the revolution's gains. Abundant evidence is indicative of the fact that these foes and parasites of society are striving to the utmost to have this war prolonged. Is it not a fact that the pseudoclergy, the compromising liberals and other agents and mercenaries of world-devouring America who have risen in strong opposition against all progressive programs of the Islamic government, including the land reform law, use the imposed war as a pretext to justify their views? Has implementation of the 6th and 10th clauses of the land reform law not been delayed by using the country's special circumstances, the imposed war, as a pretext?

If you consider any program and progressive law which is in the interest of the revolution and the millions-strong masses, you will see that the railroading liberals and other agents of world-devouring America immediately opposed it and used and continue to use the specter of war to scare the Islamic authorities. Thus, the imposition of war on our homeland by the aggressive America was a calculated plot which allowed Iran's internal and external foes a free hand to implement further plots and to strike at the revolution and its gains from all sides.

The calculation of America and its elements in the region, and the calculation of the liberals, the counterrevolution, America's extreme rightist and leftist elements and the pseudoclergy in using the war as a pretext to prevent any decisive measure by the Islamic government aimed at maintaining the people's needs and implementing fundamental reforms is very clear. Had it not been for the imposed war they would have hatched another plot to raise an obstacle on the path of any social, economic and cultural reform program. One must make all-out efforts, whether on the war front or in the international arena, to end the imposed war and to expel the aggressors. At the same time one must not be influenced by the intimations, pretexts, ruses and ploys of the counterrevolution and the opponents of the revolution's continuity. Every revolutionary step toward implementing fundamental reform programs is a step toward achieving victory in all spheres, including the imposed war.

AFGHAN MUJAHIDIN HIT SOVIET FORCES IN HERAT

GF021701 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1415 GMT 2 Feb 82

[Text] The Jami'at-e Eslami of Afghanistan has announced that the mujahidin, in several skirmishes with Afghan Government troops and Soviet soldiers in Sufian, (Nishan), (Hiduan) and (Ziaratgah) localities of Herat Province, destroyed 11 enemy tanks and troop carriers. They also killed 2 high-ranking Soviet military experts, 1 battalion commander of the Afghan Government troops and 13 enemy soldiers while capturing several other soldiers. The mujahidin also captured two military vehicles of the combined government-Soviet forces and a tanker truck.

Meanwhile, after repeated failures by the Soviet and Karmal troops in Herat region, the Soviets have been shelling residential areas of Herat Muslims.

AFGHAN OPPOSITION LEADER CALLS FOR MUSLIM UNITY

GF301856 Tehran International Service in Urdu 1415 GMT 30 Jan 82

[Text] In an interview with our correspondent today, the head of the Afghan Jami'at-e Eslami-ye office in Tehran, (Mohammad Tariq Wahid), said that Muslim unity is essential in the face of international imperialism. Referring to the Afghan people's struggle against the Soviet and Afghan Government forces, he said that in most of the military operations in Afghanistan the initiative remains with the Muslim mujahidin. He said that several parts of Afghanistan are under their control.

With regard to the acquisition of weapons, the head of the Jami'at-e Eslami-ye office in Tehran said that the Afghan mujahidin have, with great perseverance, been able to produce various kinds of weapons themselves and are using them on various fronts. He emphasized that the Muslim struggle in Afghanistan is neither Eastern nor Western in its orientation but aims at establishing an Islamic government.

The Afghan Jami'at-e Eslami-ye organization was founded 24 years ago by teachers and students at Kabul University. Its first leader was Prof Gholam Mohammad Niazi. The organization is currently being led by Professor Rabbani, a former teacher at Kabul University.